DOCKET NO.: 192697US0PCT

GROUP 176

IN THE UNITED STATE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

DEC 1 7 200

HIROTOSHI ISHIDA ET AL

: EXAMINER: WONG

SERIAL NO.: 09/581,180

FILED: JULY 14, 2000

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1761

GRANULAR SWEETENER

12-20-01

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDE

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Official Action dated October 19, 2001, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendment and remarks.

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 4, 6, and 8, without prejudice toward the further prosecution of these claims in a continuation and/or divisional application.

Please amend the claims as shown in the marked-up copy to read as follows:

1. (Amended) A granulated sweetener comprising Aspartame and Acesulfame-K as active ingredients, wherein the amount of the Acesulfame-K is 5 to 90% by weight based on the total amount of both the components and wherein the maximum particle size of the